

4. Describe the analysis required by the regulatory body.

While the IRP rule is very descriptive about the requirements of the resource planning process, the settlement allows the utilities to deviate from these requirements. Typically the utilities describe their short term (summer peak) and long term demand projections, including sales to wholesale customers, supply sources and future needs. They report types of generation and/or purchases to meet demand growth and/or supply retirements, including any planned alternatives to generation capacity additions such as build vs. buy options, affiliate transactions, and transmission constraints and planned/active transmission upgrades. Once per year they discuss expected responses to any regulatory or restructuring changes, and low-income programs.

5. Is it statewide or utility-specific planning? What types of entities are required to participate?

It is utility-specific. Although the PSC regulates safety issues regarding electric cooperatives, only IOUs must participate in this planning process.

6. This form of planning has been required since what date?

Since 1999.

Required Elements

7. Which of the following resources must be evaluated/included:

Generation	Yes
Transmission	Yes
Distribution	No
Energy efficiency	Optional
Load Management	Optional

8. Is a comparison of supply and demand side options/resources required? No
9. The plans' objectives, from the regulatory perspective:

Assurance that utilities will meet needs, that they are including risk analysis in their planning process, and they are planning to meet their obligations in a cost-effective manner.

10. The plans' objectives, from the utility perspective:

Same as above, and to bring regulators up to speed on plans, so there are no surprises during rate cases.

19. What action does the Commission take on the plans?

The Commission itself takes no action. The PSC Staff communicates what its likely opinion in subsequent rate cases will be about certain strategies (e.g. build vs. buy; reserve margins, affiliate transactions).

20. Have resource acquisition decisions changed as a result of the planning process?

Yes. Although it's difficult to credit changes directly to the process, there is no doubt that the utilities' plans have changed from meeting to meeting, and appear to be responsive, in part, to concerns raised by PSC Staff.

21. Are competitive processes used to acquire new resources? Yes, RFP's are used.

22. Do utilities file an energy efficiency or DSM plan? Yes

The utilities have to show the impact of DSM programs on load forecasts.

23. Is competitive bidding used to acquire EE resources? Not usually.

Most utilities use traditional vendors for programs.

24. Does the regulatory agency have open dockets, or is it considering opening a docket investigating any long-range electrical investments? No

25. Citation and description:

The PSC just finished a lengthy complaint case, Case EC-2002-1, charging that a utility had significantly over-earned. Items reviewed included transmission upgrade and generation investments.

26. Are filed plans available on-line? No

27. Citation and description of State policies (legislation, rules/regs, PUC orders) governing planning:

The Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement reached in Case EO-99-365 governs this Alternative process. The rules governing the former IRP process are still on the books. They are found in 4 CSR 240-22.

28. Do you anticipate any changes to this process in the near future?

There are no discussions to change this process at present. It is possible that the Department of Natural Resources will pursue the opportunity to be present at more utilities' meetings with PSC Staff.

29. Does your state do performance-based regulation?

The only type of performance-based regulation that the PSC currently allows for electric utilities is rate moratoriums. During the rate moratorium period, the utilities are allowed to earn whatever rate of return they can. Currently two of the electric utilities are under rate moratoriums. There may be some in telecommunications.

State Energy Plan

30. Is there a State Energy Plan?

The Governor appointed a task force, the Energy Policy Council, to provide comprehensive energy policy recommendations. A draft report is being composed currently.

31. Is it connected to the planning described above?

Some of the information from the PSC planning process is available in an aggregate form to the Energy Policy Council.

32. If yes, who is responsible for the Plan?

The Governor appointed the members, including the Chair of the PSC. A key person staffing the effort is Brenda Wilbers, the Department of Natural Resources Energy Center, 573-751-8509.

33. What is included in the Plan, apropos of long-range electrical planning?

The PSC staff contributed an aggregated supply/demand portfolio to the effort.